

Remarks:

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-17 and 30 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 14, and 15, added claim 30 and cancelled claims 8 and 18-29 to clarify the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The objection to the drawings and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are no longer relevance since claim 29 is no longer pending. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner indicated that claims 7-17 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the subject matter of claim 8. Applicants have deleted "single disc shaped" with respect to the intermediate member. This phrase was not in claim 1 as originally in the application. Therefore, it was not in claim 1 that the Examiner indicated in the first office action was allowable. Consequently, claim 1 should still be allowable without this phrase. Newly presented independent claim 30 recites the subject matter of claims 1 and 7. All dependent claims depend from claim 1. Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0040268 to Beckershoff. The Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckershoff. These rejections are no longer valid in view of the presentation of only claims that the Examiner indicated recite allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this case and issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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